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23 June 1988
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings on
South Africa: Day Two

1. On 23 June 1988, I attended the second day of hearings held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) on South Africa from 9:30 a.m. till noon. The witnesses were from the private sector (grouped in two panels). Intelligence issues never came up.

2. Senators Present. Senator Pell, SFRC Chairman, chaired the hearings briefly at their outset. For the remainder of time, Senator Simon was in the chair. Other Senators who came and went from time to time were: Helms, Cranston, Kerry, Murkowski and McConnell.

3. Senator Helms had the most to say (his own statements and interchanges with witnesses). Senators Simon and Cranston had limited, most pro forma interchanges with witnesses. It appears Senator Simon has not taken a position on the bill. Senator Murkowski said very little, but what he said was interesting. Reminding all present that he was sponsor of the 1986 sanctions legislation, he said he couldn't see that it had worked, and accordingly, was not persuaded that new legislation was needed.

4. Panel I. The first panel consisted of: Meg Voorhes, Assistant Director, South Africa Review Service, Investor Responsibility Research Center, Inc; Michael Radu, Research Associate, Foreign Policy Research Institute; Stephen M Davis, Research Analyst, Investor Responsibility Research Center, Inc.; William Coleman, former Secretary of Transportation, now representing Mobil Oil; and, Damu Smith, Executive Director, Washington Office on Africa.

5. The first three witnesses were moderate/neutral on the sanctions issue. Secretary Coleman said that Section 2 of S. 2378 was likely an unconstitutional "taking" of private property. Mr. Davis strongly supported the bill.

6. Panel II. This panel consisted of: Randall Robinson, Executive Director, TransAfrica; Jim Martin, Washington Representative, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); Byron Charlton, Assistant to the Executive Director, AFL-CIO African/American Labor Center; and, Walter Williams, Professor, George Mason University.

7. Mr. Robinson supported the bill and argued for its passage, saying the Congress should pass it even though it was not "veto-proof" since passage would "send a message."

8. Mr. Martin, the representative of CORE, was strongly opposed to the bill as was Professor Williams. Mr. Charlton strongly supported the bill.

9. The Committee adjourned to reconvene on Friday, 24 June 1988 for the third and final day of hearings.

Legislation Division
Office of Congressional Affairs

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